



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY URGES CONTINUED CAUTION AS STORM MOVES THROUGH STATE
Snow, Sleet and Freezing Rain Still Pose a Danger to Motorists

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today warned motorists to continue to use extreme caution on roads and highways as the mix of snow and sleet turns to freezing rain. While snow accumulation has been minor and no serious incidents have been reported, the likelihood of icy spots on roads will make travel dangerous.

"Our preparation is working but motorists need to do their part too," said Easley. "The freezing rain coming in on top of the snow means driving will be hazardous. I urge people, unless absolutely necessary, to stay off the roads until temperatures warm and the storm moves out of the state."

The storm system entered the state early this morning and dropped 1 to 2 inches of snow in the Charlotte, Triad and Triangle. Weather forecasters expect the precipitation will continue through this evening with a mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain.

Easley ordered the State Emergency Response Team into action yesterday and praised state agencies, especially the Department of Transportation, for moving quickly in advance of the storm. DOT crews started treating bridges, overpasses and major highways yesterday and through last night with salt to help prevent icing. Nearly 5,000 employees and 2,700 pieces of heavy equipment are responding to the storm.

The N.C. Division of Emergency Management is in constant communication with the National Weather Service and is coordinating with local emergency agencies, especially in the western and central parts of the state.

The N.C. State Highway Patrol has additional troopers to handle calls for service and crashes. Anyone who must drive should increase following distance and decrease speed. Motorists should be aware that black ice on the roadways is possible when moisture covers the roadway and temperatures are near or below freezing.

People are urged to contact emergency officials only for emergency situations. Please do not call 911 or the Highway Patrol for road conditions. The lines must remain clear for emergency calls. To check road conditions, please visit www.ncdot.org and click on Traffic and Travel Conditions or call 511.

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